

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 PORT M 00598 180411Z
ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00
PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02
PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 DHA-02 ORM-02 /105 W
-----180915Z 054817 /17

R 180100Z MAY 77
FM AMEMBASSY PORT MORESBY
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2278
INFO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
AMEMBASSY DAKAR
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
AMEMBASSY JAKARTA
AMCONSUL SURABAYA
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
CINCPAC HONOLULU/POLAD

UNCLAS PORT MORESBY 0598

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: NA
TAGS: PINS PP ID
SUBJ: ONGOING EVENTS IN WEST IRIAN DISSIDENT MOVEMENT

REF: PORT MORESBY 0588

SUMMARY: PRESS REPORTS 26 OPM SYMPATHIZERS HAVE BEEN
CAPTURED BY OPM FACTIONLEADER AND ARE BEING HELD IN PNG
VILLAGE. END SUMMARY.

1. FOLLOWING STORY FILED FROMPORT MORESBY APPEARED IN
MAY 16 SYDNEY MORNING HERALD.

QTE PORT MORESBY, SUNDAY: IRIANESE REFUGEES LIVING HERE
DEMANDED TODAY THAT THE PNG GOVERNMENT RESCUE 26 MEN AND
CHELDREN HELD HOSTAGE BY IRIANESE REBELS AT A VILLAGE INSIDE
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 PORT M 00598 180411Z

PNG. THE UN COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES IN PORT MORESBY WILL
BE ASKED TOMORROW TO USE HIS INFLUENCE IN DRAWING WORLD
ATTENTION TO THE PLIGHT OF THE 26, MANY OF WHOM FACE EXECUTION
EITHER BY THEIR CAPTOR, JACOB PRAI, OR THE INDONESIAN
GOVERNMENT IF RETURNED ACROSS THE BORDER.

THE 26 WERE MEMBERS OF A GROUP OF 35 REBELS WHICH BRIGADIER

GENERAL SETH RUMKOREM, THE RECENTLY DEPOSED PRESIDENT OF THE PROVISIONAL REVOLUTIONARY GOVERNMENT OF WEST PAPUA, WAS ATTEMPTING TO LEAD TO FREEDOM IN PNG WHEN THEY WERE AMBUSHED BY GUERRILLAS BELONGING TO THE NEW REBEL LEADER, MR PRAI. THE GROUP, WHICH WAS BELIEVED UNARMED OR ONLY LIGHTLY ARMED, WAS WELL INSIDE PNG WHEN AMBUSHED. BRIGADIER GENERAL RUMKOREM'S DECISION TO BRING THEM ACROSS TO PNG FOLLOWED AN APPROACH TO THE PNG GOVERNMENT TO SECURE PERMISSIVE RESIDENCY FOR THE WHOLE PARTY.

THE RESCUE APPEAL WAS DISCLOSED HERE BY RELATIVES OF BRIGADIER GENERAL RUMKOREM AND THE RELATIVES OF THE HOSTAGES BEING HELD BY THE PRGWP. THE RELATIVES ARE ALL IRIANESE REFUGEES LIVING IN PORT MORESBY, MANY WITH RESPONSIBLE JOBS AND MANY HOLDING PNG CITIZENSHIP. APPEALING FOR GOVERNMENT HELP ON #HUMANITARIAN GROUNDS," THE SPOKESMAN FOR THE RELATIVES RELEASED THE NAMES OF THE 26 PEOPLE-MANY OF THEM SAID TO BE ILL-BELIEVED TO BE HELD BY MR PRAI AT SEKOTIA IN WEST SEPIK PROVINCE, FOR MANY YEARS A "NO GO" AREA FOR THE PNG DEFENCE FORCE. THE LIST WAS COMPILED MAY 7 BY GENERAL RUMKOREM WHO APPARENTLY ESCAPED IN THE FIGHT FOLLOWING THE AMBUSH IN PNG TERRITORY OF THE FLEEING GROUP. THE GROUP WAS BELIEVE TO BE TRAVELLING SLOWLY BECAUSE OF THE ILL AND THE CHILDREN IN THE PARTY. THE LIST IS ON OFFICIAL PRGWP LETTERHEAD PAPER AND IS SIGNED BY GENERAL RUMKOREM. A SPOKESMAN FOR THE RELATIVES-MOST OF THEM RELATIVES OF THE GENERAL-SAID IT HAD BEEN DELIVERED TO THEM ON FRIDAY. THE GUARANTEED THE AUTHENTICITY OF THE LETTER AND ITS SIGNATURE.

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 PORT M 00598 180411Z

THE SPOKESMAN SAID THAT SINCE THE COMMUNICATION OF THE LIST NOTHING HAD BEEN HEARD FROM THE GENERAL AND THE RELATIVES BELIEVED HE COULD HAVE BEEN CAPTURED OR KILLED AS HAD THE REMAINDER OF THE PARTY. THE SPOKESMAN SAID THE RELATIVES WERE PUZZLED BY PNG INTELLIGENCE REPORTS THAT PRAI WAS HOLDING ONLY 9 PEOPLE IN HIS STOCKADE, INCLUDING DR MAURY, AND THEY BELIEVED THE OTHERS COULD BE DEAD OR COULD HAVE BEEN TAKEN BACK TO THE INDONESIAN SIDE OF THE BORDER. THE SPOKESMAN SAID THAT MOST OF THE ADULTS HAD BEEN REPORTEDLY CHARGED WITH TREASON IN ABSENTIA BY PRAI OR WERE BEING SOUGHT BY THE INDONESIAN GOVERNMENT FOR TAKING PART IN GUERRILLA ACTIVITIES. UNQTE.

2. SEPTTEL FOLLOWS.
OLMSTED

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, POLITICAL PRISONERS, PRISONERS WELFARE, DISSIDENT FACTIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 18-May-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977PORTM00598
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770176-0748
Format: TEL
From: PORT MORESBY
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770544/aaaablms.tel
Line Count: 113
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 7ecde390-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 PORT MORESBY 588
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 11-Jan-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2470154
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ONGOING EVENTS IN WEST IRIAN DISSIDENT MOVEMENT
TAGS: PINS, PP, ID
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odhc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/7ecde390-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009